

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Low Crosby FRMS, keeping the community up to date about the project.

This is the first edition in a series of newsletters, for residents, businesses, tenants and visitors who live and work in the area around Low Crosby. These newsletters will provide you with information as we commence and progress the Design and Construction phase of the works keeping you informed of events and how to find out more detail about the project.

We recently sent out an Engagement Pack with information about the proposed project to reduce the flood risk to homes in and around Low Crosby. In response to feedback we received, we are increasing the distribution of this newsletter, to include properties between Eden Grove to the west of the village, and properties in the low-lying land between Low Crosby and Newby East. The Warwick Holme embankment re-profiling work will also provide some reduction in flood risk to these areas.

Works Completed last period:

- Ground Investigation works completed
- Protected Species Surveys undertaken
- Site Investigation material confirmed
- Outline Business Case submitted
- Progress on advanced works

Works Planned this period:

- The advanced works on the Parish Hall will commence
- United Utilities are to seal manhole lids on two manhole chambers on the surface water network (1 on the playing field behind Parish Hall, 1 in field off Green Lane)
- Detailed design for the Warwick Holme re-profiling will commence
- Outline design for the existing Pumping Station will commence
- Revisit the possibility of installing property flood resilience measures on some of the lower lying properties on Primrose Bank

Project Timeline

The development of the programme for the Warwick Holme embankment re-profiling has been on-going since the issuing of the Engagement Pack in May 2021. We introduced the likelihood that we would not be in a position to undertake the work before this winter. Getting a Business Case approved to secure the funding that would allow us to appoint the contractors and secure the necessary agreements to progress the works will take us through to the mid-winter period, which is not a good time of year to be undertaking earth work on farmland. A construction start in late spring/early summer 2022 is the intention, though this comes with constraints around nesting birds and farm operations, which we need to work through with our contractors, environmental leads and the landowner. This process is underway.

In an attempt to help mitigate some of the risks over this winter some advanced works measures have been developed. Please see descriptions and updates to the right. We aim to complete the advanced works within the village by the end of 2021.



Fig 1: Ground Investigation Works being undertaken



Fig 2: Low Crosby Village Hall

Advanced Works in Low Crosby Village:

Property Flood Resilience on the Parish Hall – contractors, Lakeside Flood Solutions are working to a mid July 2021 start date.

Upgrade to existing Pumping Station - Working with Cumbria County Council (CCC) and our designers Jacobs to identify the necessary works, with the intention to undertake these works ahead of winter 2021.

Working with CCC to construct additional gulleys and a new flap on highways drainage off Green Lane to the River Eden. Work currently planned for summer 2021.

Sealing of United Utilities manhole covers to prevent flood water getting into the drainage network – summer 2021.

Following conversations with the Flood Action Group it was agreed to revisit the possibility of reducing the flood risk of certain properties on Primrose Bank - we will appoint our Property Flood Resilience contractors (RAB) to consider the options.

Upcoming Newsletters

Following the issuing of this first newsletter, all subsequent newsletters will be published on the dedicated Low Crosby Flood Hub page online every 8 weeks, please see link below.

Covid-19:

In the current situation we remain focused on keeping communities safe and delivering our Capital Flood Risk Schemes where we can do so safely and within Government guidelines. The majority of our staff, consultants and contractors are working remotely away from offices and each other, but we are committed to continuing our activities where we can.

Project Overview Commentary

The Environment Agency Project Team has been working with the stakeholders and the Flood Action Group to identify a preferred option to progress with, in order to reduce the flood risk to Low Crosby. The preferred option identified, involves re-profiling of the existing Warwick Holme flood embankments, to enable flood waters to flow from the River Eden across the Holme during periods of flooding.

We have assessed that re-profiling the embankments at Warwick Holme would enable a similar sized flood to Storm Desmond to pass down the River Eden, with peak river levels staying below the level of the homes in the village of Low Crosby.

LOW CROSBY PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS

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Please visit www.thefloodhub.co.uk/low-crosby for further information.